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July 27, 1964

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[redacted]  
U.S. Government  
2430 E. Street NW  
Washington, D.C.

Declass Review by NIMA / DoD

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[redacted]  
In view of your interest in photographic engineering, I thought you might be interested in information regarding the fully automatic Programmable Film Reading System we have developed for reducing and digitizing large quantities of photographic data recorded on film. The film reading system reads film at an average rate of 5000 data-points per second. This will vary upward or downward to some extent, depending on the complexity of data on the film. (By comparison, only about 5000 points per day is possible with presently available semi-automatic film readers).

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We have supplied Programmable Film Readers to [redacted] STATINTL

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[redacted] and Holloman Air Force Base, for reducing radar A-scope traces on film. We are currently manufacturing additional film readers for [redacted] and White Sands Proving Grounds (also for reading A-scope traces), and for [redacted] STATINTL

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[redacted] for reading nuclear burst data on film. The latter system is a special high resolution system which measures x and y coordinates to an accuracy of 0.0002 inch, or about 5 microns.

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The film reading system is a significant improvement on so-called "flying spot scanner" systems. Such systems scan an entire raster and merely read the resulting "on-off" data for all points on the raster. Further computer processing is then necessary to extract the significant data. The [redacted] Programmable Film Reader, on the other hand, is controlled by a stored computer program, and is able to analyze and extract the coordinates of the data which is of interest. No further processing is required; this data is immediately available as output of the film reading system.

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[redacted] also furnishes services for reading film sent to us for processing. We are currently reading radar film for

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[redacted] and oceanographic current meter film for [redacted] STATINTL

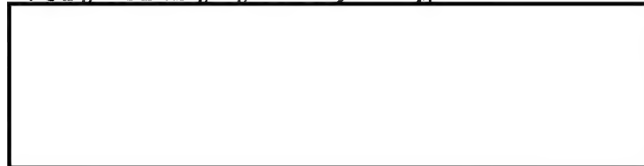
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[redacted] the United States Public Health Service, and others. We are also very interested in other applications such as reading theodolite films, cloud or bubble chamber data, oil well logs recorded on film and other similar applications.

I hope this may be of interest to you. If you know of others with a possible application, perhaps you might forward this to them. In any event, if you would like further information, we would be very happy to be of assistance.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours, [redacted]



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JDW/js